

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 40

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lance Corporal William Koprince, Jr., of Lenoir City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Lance Corporal William Koprince, Jr., a courageous member of the United States Marine Corps who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which Lenoir City, Loudon County, and the Volunteer State are renowned, Lance Corporal Koprince was a brave and honorable member of the United States Marine Corps, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, William Koprince, Jr., who was twenty-four years of age, lost his life while conducting combat operations near Al Habbaniyah in Iraq's Anbar Province, on December 27, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Koprince was born in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan, but grew up in Loudon County; a 2001 graduate of Lenoir City High School, William Koprince, Jr., joined the Marines in September of 2003; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Koprince was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and like thousands of others of this great nation's sons and daughters, William Koprince, Jr., did not shrink from serving in combat; he believed in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people from the chains of injustice; and

WHEREAS, serving with great courage and gallantry, Lance Corporal Koprince gave his life for his country and the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, William Koprince's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country are exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense

of all that he held dear and stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, in recalling Lance Corporal Koprince, his platoon commander, 2nd Lieutenant Matthew Adleta, with whom he had spent days at a time on patrols together, said, "He was always the one you could turn to if you needed something done. He did what he needed to do and what he didn't have to do. I wouldn't have hesitated for any minute to put my life in his hands."; and

WHEREAS, William Koprince Jr., is survived by his parents, William and Bernice Koprince; sister, Morgan Koprince Moore and her husband, Andrew; grandmothers, Olive Wickman and Anne Koprince; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Morgan Wickman, Dr. Robert Koprince, and Evelyn Koprince; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Koprince was an active and devout member of New Life Church of the Nazarene in Oak Ridge, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Lance Corporal William Koprince, Jr., United States Marine Corps, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lance Corporal William Koprince, Jr., a man of impeccable character, limitless courage, and stalwart commitment to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Marine Corps, reflecting fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Lance Corporal William Koprince, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.